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Message Text

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TAGS: ECON PL
SUBJ: RELEASE OF STATISTICS ON POLAND'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE
DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978

1. THE JULY 24 EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU CONTAINES A COMMUNIQUE
FROM THE MAIN STATISTICAL OFFICE ON THE "DEVELOPMENT OF THE
ECONOMY AND THE REALIZATION OF THE PLAN IN THE FIRST HALF
OF 1978". THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:

2. FOREIGN TRADE - FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER (IN CURRENT PRICES)
INCREASED BY 2.3 PERCENT OVER RESULTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1977.
DUE TO WORLD INFLATION, THIS PROBABLY REPRESENTS A SLIGHT
DECREASE IN TRADE IN REAL TERMS. EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED 9.3
PERCENT AND IMPORTS HAVE DROPPED BY 3.8 PERCENT. OVERALL,
THERE IS A SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION
FOREIGN EXCHANGE ZLOTY DEFICIT IN FOREIGN TRADE. CMEA TRADE
INCREASED BY 5.1 PERCENT, BUT NO DATA WERE PUBLISHED ON POALAND'S
EXPORTS OR IMPORTS WITH THE CMEA COUNTRIES. TRADE WITH
CAPITALIST COUNTRIES HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY. EXPORTS HAVE
INCREASED 9.7 PERCENT, AND IMPORTS HAVE DROPPED 9.6 PERCENT.
COMMENT: ALTHOUGH A GOOD DEAL OF INTERESTING DATA
IS PRESENTED, THESE STATISTICS ARE STILL INSUFFICIENT FOR
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ESTIMATING THE ABSOLUTE LEVELS OF TRADE
WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND WITH THE CMEA COUNTRIES
END COMMENT.

3. INCOME/PRODUCTIVITY - IN COMPARISON WITH THE FIRST HALF
OF 1977, MONETARY INCOME ROSE BY 8.2 PERCENT. WAGES WERE
UP 6.8 PERCENT AND FARMERS' INCOMES INCREASED BY 4.0 PERCENT.

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PER CAPITA PRODUCTION INCREASED BY 6.4 PERCENT, SLIGHTLY LESS
THAT THE INCREASE IN WORKERS' WAGES BUT SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW
THE INCREASE IN MONETARY INCOME. TOTAL PRODUCTION OF THE
SOCIALIZED SECTOR INCREASED BY 6.2 PERCENT; BUT EXPORTS,
WHICH WERE UP 9.3 PERCENT, ABSORBED MOST OF THE GAIN. RETAIL
SALES INCREASED BY 7.9 PERCENT. COMMENT: THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL
DATA ON OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INFLATION IN POLAND, SO WE CANNOT
ESTIMATE HOW MUCH OF THE INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES IS DUE TO
INFLATION AND HOW MUCH IS DUE TO THE INFLUX OF ADDITIONA,
CONSUMER SUPPLIES. END COMMENT.

4. ALTHOUGH MONETARY INCOMES INCREASED BY 8.2 PERCENT, MEAT,
POULTRY, AND RELATED PRODUCTION (PRESENTED HERE AS ONE CATEGORY)
INCREASED BY 2.9 PERCENT, FISH AND FISH BY-PRODUCTS FELL BY
11.1 PERCENT, AND ALCOHOL PRODUCTION INCREASED BY 3.0 PERCENT.
COMMENT: EXCESSIVE LIQUIDITY APPEARS TO CONTINUE TO BE A
SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST RESULTS
FOR JANUARY/JUNE 1978 HAVE SHOWN THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCOMPLISHED
LITTLE TOWARD RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS IN CRITICAL
AGRICULTURAL GOODS. PASSENGER CAR PRODUCTION INCREASED
BY 18.8 PERCENT, IMPLYING THAT VOERERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE
ATTEMPTING OT ABSORB EXCESS LIQUIDITY BY SALES OF CAPITAL
GOODS IN GENERAL AND CARS IN PARTICULAR. THE INFRASTRUCTURE
TO SUPPORT THE PRESENT CAR POPULATION, HOWEVER, IS INADEQUATE
AND MORE CARS WILL STRAIN BOTH THESE RESOURCES AND CREATE
INCREASED DEMAND FOR CRUDE OIL IMPORTS FOR CONSUMERS. END
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COMMENT.

5. MAJOR INDUSTRIES - IN THE MAJOR INDUSTRIES, POLAND HAS
MIXED RESULTS FOR THE FIRST PART OF 1978. HARD COAL PRODUC-
TION INCREASED BY 4.5 PERCENT, CRUDE STEEL BY 5.6 PERCENT,
AND COPPER BY 7.5 PERCENT. CONSTRUCTIONS OF SHIPS, HOWEVER,
SHOWED A MARKED DECREASE OF 18.8 PERCENT IN SALES IN
CONSTANT ZLOTYS. COMMENT: SHIPYARD OFFICIALS, AS LATE AS
JUNE 1978, HAVE INSISTED THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET FELT THE
CRUNCH THAT HAS HIT FOREIGN SHIPYARDS AND THAT THEIR ORDER
BOOKS WERE FULL UNTIL THE EARLY 1980'S END COMMENT.

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